

LIBERTY CALL

A Star-Spangled Celebration

Pearl Harbor celebrates Independence Day with annual block party, fireworks

By Kathy Isobe
MWR MARKETING

Pearl Harbor takes its Independence Day celebration to the street once again, with a July 4th Block Party and Aerial Fireworks Spectacular on Sunday from 2-10:30 p.m.

Naval Station Pearl Harbor will close Pearl Harbor Boulevard from Merry Point to Eleventh Street to make room for live entertainment, carnival games, ship open houses, arts and crafts booths, children's activities, food vendors and much more.

Admission is free and the public is welcome to attend.

Bring the whole family out to enjoy Tsunami, the Pacific Fleet's show band and a special Japanese Taiko drum performance from the visiting Japanese Training Squadron. Live on stage will also be Rolando Sanchez, Swingwood Review, Warren Johnson and the Gator Creek Band, Kamalamalama, and a Chinese lion dance.

Also, get your teams together for the three on three basketball and street hockey tournaments. Try your skill on the obstacle course, maze craze, trampoline, Bungee Run, Climber's Paradise Rock Wall or giant slide. Win prizes in the carnival game booths. See special displays by the Federal Fire Department, Naval Station Regional Security Department, 50th State Pro Gas Racing Association and JN Chevrolet Group.

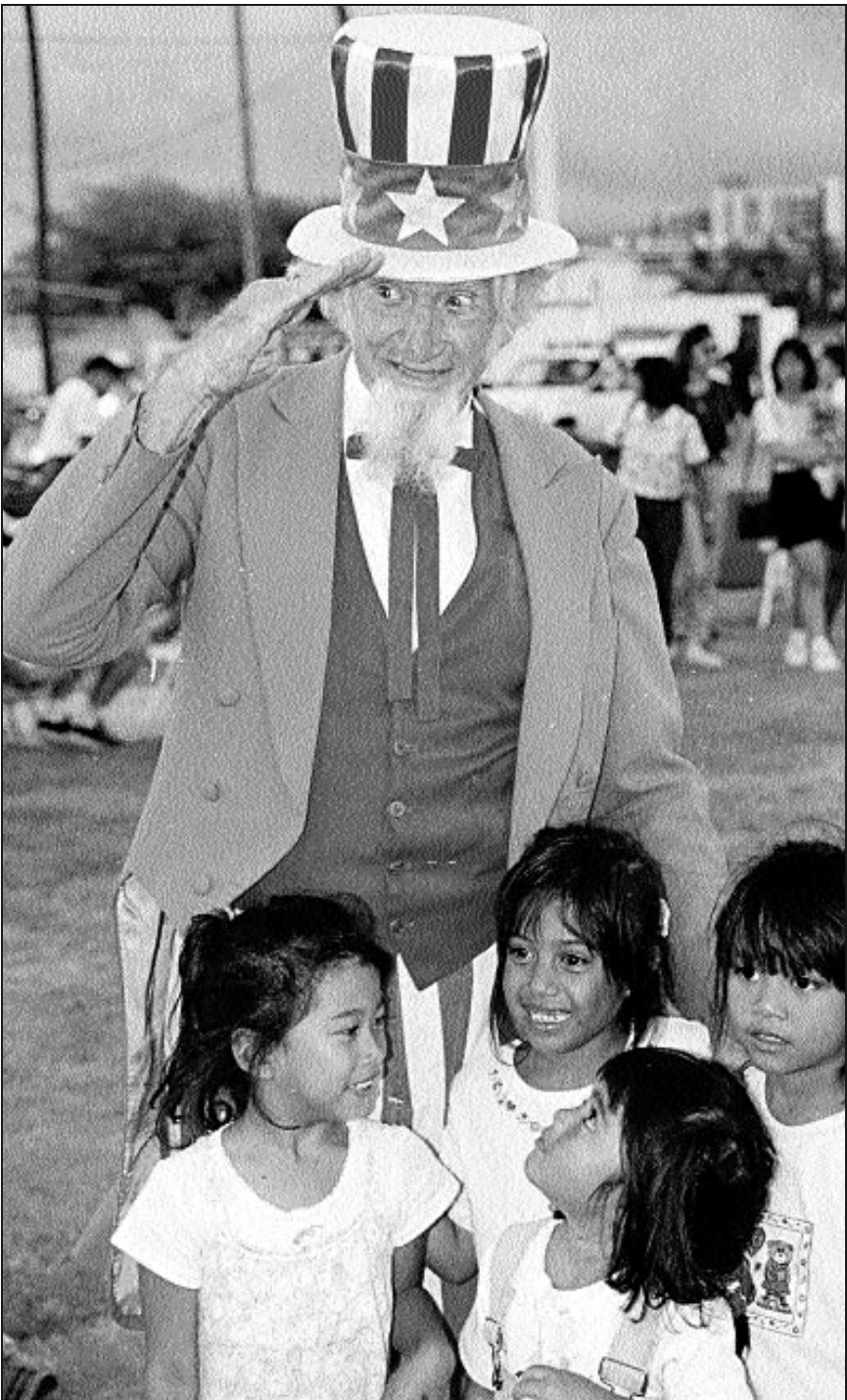
Keiki Land offers special activities just for children, with the bounce house and petting zoo nearby. McGruff the Crime Dog will also be on hand to meet and greet fans of all ages.

The highlight of the evening is the breathtaking aerial fireworks display, beginning at 8:30 p.m. The world-famous Grucci "First Family of Fireworks" of New York will light up the sky over the harbor with a spectacular 15-minute show.

Free parking is available on base at Merry Point, Bloch Arena, the Banyans and Club Pearl. For more information, call 473-0819.

Independence Day Block Party
July 4 from 2-10:30 p.m.
Pearl Harbor Boulevard, Naval Station

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| 2 p.m. | Event opens- <i>Free Admission</i> |
| 2:30 p.m. | Live on Stage- Tsunami - <i>Navy's Finest Show Band</i> |
| 3:30 p.m. | Live on Stage - Kamalamalama - <i>Hawaiian/Country music</i> |
| 4 p.m. | Petting Zoo opens - <i>Popeye's parking lot</i> |
| | Bungee run, giant slide, obstacle course |
| 5 pm. | Live on Stage - Swingwood Review - <i>Modern Swing music</i> |
| 5:45 p.m. | Taiko Drum performance |
| 6 p.m. | Chinese Lion Dance - <i>Au's Shaolin Society</i> |
| 6:30 p.m. | Live on Stage - Dita Holifield - <i>Country/Rock music</i> |
| 8 p.m. | Warren Johnson & the Gator Creek Band - <i>Country</i> |
| 8:25 p.m. | Uncle Sam Pledges his Allegiance - <i>Free U.S. Flags</i> |
| 8:28 p.m. | Guido Salmaggi sings the National Anthem |
| 8:30 p.m. | Spectacular Aerial Fireworks Display |
| 8:50 p.m. | Warren Johnson & the Gator Creek Band - <i>Country</i> |
| 9:30 p.m. | Live on Stage - Rolando Sanchez - <i>Famous Latino Band</i> |
| 10:30 p.m. | Event Concludes |



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Uncle Sam will make his annual appearance at Naval Station's Independence Day Block Party on Sunday from 2-10:30 p.m. on Pearl Harbor Blvd.

One year later: Battleship Missouri Memorial thrives in Pearl Harbor

By Patrick Dugan
MCNEIL-WILSON ASSOCIATES

Exactly one year ago today the Battleship Missouri was towed into Pearl Harbor to begin the final chapter of its career as a floating museum memorial. Immortalized as the site where the Instrument of Surrender was signed to end World War II, the Mighty Mo was now berthed in the same place where war began, just 300 yards from the sunken USS Arizona.

Despite its place in history, the great battleship showed the wear and tear that comes from six years of inactivity and inattention. Rust was everywhere. The hull was weathered and scarred with black marks. And the famed teakwood decks were dilapidated and badly in need of repair.

With just seven employees and a barebones budget, its new caretaker, the USS Missouri Memorial Association, faced the daunting task of restoring its former glory while transforming the ship into a place for visitors to come relive its greatness.

But, that was a year ago.

Today the Battleship Missouri Memorial is thriving, both with its restoration program and as a visitor attraction. With incredible volunteer support the exterior has been refurbished-the ship shines like new. And the interior work is progressing ahead of schedule. The mess decks and crew berthing areas will open in the next few months-sooner than originally planned.

Other examples of progress are evident. A souvenir photo concession opened early this month. Last week, a spacious, new 1,000-sq. ft. ship's store opened on the pier. And new exhibits seemingly appear almost weekly.

"It's been an exciting first year and while we appreciate what's been accomplished there's no shortage of work to be done in the future," said Don Hess, the Missouri's vice president of operations. "The community and volunteer support is the glue that holds the



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project together."

Some points of interest about the Missouri since its arrival:

- Over 182,000 visitors have come aboard the ship since it opened January 29.
- A year ago the Association had only seven employees; today the Association has 100 employees, 51 full-time and 49 part-time.
- To date, more than 7,800 volunteers have worked on the ship.
- Over three acres of vertical steel surfaces and one acre of horizontal steel surfaces have been sanded and repainted.
- Over 53,000 sq. ft of teakwood decks have been cleaned and groomed.
- Restoring the exterior steel surfaces has required 1,400 gallons of paint-825 gallons haze gray, 235 gallons white, and 150 gallons deck gray; 80 gallons of paint thinner; 500 paint brushes; 300 paint rollers; 225 sanding disks; 25 chipping hammers; 13 needle guns; 9 disk sanders; and, 4 grinders.
- Work on the interior has included running 3,000 feet of electrical cable for power, replacing 600 fluorescent lights, and restoring 30 fan coil units for the ship's air conditioning units. In addition, over 14,000 man-hours have been spent to replace the existing pipes, pumps and valves of the sewage system in preparation for future shipboard activities.
- Approximately 1,400 military ceremonies-

i.e. re-enlistments, promotions, commissionings, retirements-have been held aboard the ship.

- Along with the USS Arizona Memorial and USS Bowfin Memorial, the Missouri has elevated the historical significance of Pearl Harbor to visitors worldwide.

The ship has also proven to be a popular venue for a wide range of special events, varying from informal morning brunches to sit-down evening cocktail receptions. Along with a number of private company functions, two special events of note include the Governor's Pro Bowl Reception, and the formal high-end dinner hosted by the Honolulu Chapter of the Confrerie de la Chaine des Rotisseurs.

After just one year the Association is pleased with the Memorial's progress, but Hess says continued community support is needed to ensure its long-term success. "People sometimes don't realize that the Missouri is being cared for by a private non-profit organization, but we rent our pier from the Navy, pay for all of our utilities and our operations," he said. "All the money we generate goes into the ship's restoration and operation."

General admission to the Battleship Missouri Memorial is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children. Guided tours are an additional \$4. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Tickets and free parking are available at the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and Park, located on Kamehameha Highway next to the USS Arizona Memorial Visitors Center. A free trolley transports guests across Ford Island to the Mighty Mo's pier on historic Battleship Row.

The USS Missouri Memorial Association is a private Hawaii-based 501(c) (3) non-profit organization designated by the Navy as caretaker of the Battleship Missouri. It is not supported with government funding. The Association was formed in 1994 and includes a cross-section of leaders from Hawaii's business, civic, political, and retired military communities.

4th of July Briefs

Streets closed for block party

In support of the 1999 4th of July block party on Sunday, July 4 on Pearl Harbor Blvd., the following parking areas and streets will be secured.

Pearl Harbor Blvd., from North Road to 11th St., and the parking lots at piers B-25/26 will be secured until Monday July 5 at 4 p.m.

On Sunday, July 4 from 1-10:30 p.m., North Road will be secured from the Bloch Arena entrance to Merry Point landing.

All vehicles remaining in the area will be towed at the owners expense.

Ships open for Independence Day tours

USS Crommelin (FFG 37) will be open for public tours on July 4 from 2-6 p.m. at pier B-23. In addition, the Japanese Maritime Defense Force ships JDS Myoko, JDS Amagiri and JDS Hiei will be open for public tours from 2-6 p.m. at piers B-25 and 26.

Fireworks illegal in Navy housing neighborhoods

Navy Housing reminds residents that the possession and/or use of any type of fireworks on any Navy property, especially in Navy housing areas, is illegal and forbidden. Violators may face eviction from housing and disciplinary action.

CHRM Community Barbeque

Get an early start on the Fourth of July celebration at Catlin/Halsey/Radford/Miller Community Center's barbeque on July 3 at 1 p.m.